(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Cachar Pachgram Paper Mill

3368. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the affairs in Cachar Pachgram Paper Mill;

(b) if so, whether it is earning profit; and

(c) if not, steps Government propose to take to make it a profitable venture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cachar Paper Mill, a unit of Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) is making operating profit (excluding interest on Govt. loan and depreciation). Action has been taken by Hindustan Paper Corporation to improve efficiency in the areas of pulp mill, recovery section, paper machine and increase in capacity utilisation. A proposal for financial restructuring of HPC has been approved by Government.

Employment to Handicapped Persons

3369. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the present position in Uttar Pradesh for providing employment to handicapped persons for the last three years, year-wise and target fixed for next three years.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected from the Ministry of Labour and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Foodgrain Stock with FCI

3370. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate stock of foodgrains at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India as on the 31st March, 1995 and on 31st March, 1996;

(b) the estimated annual cost for carrying such stocks; and

(c) whether measures are on the anvil to use these grains for feeding the nation's poor and undernourished through a planned programme of subsidised public distribution?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The aggregate stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool (Rice and Wheat) held by Food Corporation of India and State Agencies as on 31st March, 1995 and on 31st March, 1996 was about 26.8 million tonnes and 22.7 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The estimated carrying cost for 1994-95 is about Rs. 1853 crores and the estimated carrying cost for 1995-96 is about Rs. 1637 crores.

(c) The stocks are issued to the states at subsidised rates for running Public Distribution System (PDS)/Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). Foodgrains are also issued at subsidised rates for a few Welfare Schemes—Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Wheat based Nutrition Programme (NP), Mid-Day-Meal Schemes for School Children, SC/ST/OBC Hostels etc.